GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7274
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2000
LOOTING OF BANK DRAFTS AND CHEQUES OF PNB
CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some unidentified gunmen had looted in the broad day light bank drafts and cheques worth two crores of rupees from the cashier of the Punjab National Bank on April 21, 2000 near railway station in Muzaffarnagar city of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the bank drafts and cheques has been encashed;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the date on which the encashment was made; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to nab them?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a) & (b):- Punjab National Bank has reported that on 20th April, 2000 at 10.40 AM an unidentified gunman has looted a bag containing 260 bank drafts, cheques and other instruments worth Rs.1.89 crore from a bank employee of the New Mandi, Muzaffarnagar Branch, near the railway station while he was going to the Clearing House.

(c) & (d):- None of the customers has so far reported any encashment of cheques/ drafts looted in the incident.

(e):- All the cheques and drafts which were looted were bearing the crossing stamp and as such the possibility of misuse of these instruments is minimal. However, to protect the interest of the account holders the branch had requested their customers to get stop payment marked by the payee banks and if required get a duplicate instruments issued in lieu of the original. The incident of looting has also been reported to other banks and the details of cheques/drafts has also been sent to the payee bankers to mark necessary caution against their fraudulent use. An FIR relating to the incident has been lodged with the Police Department on 20th April, 2000.